

# Advisory Council on Aging and Disability Services

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*Creating choices for elders and adults with disabilities in Seattle-King County*  
[www.advisorycouncil.org](http://www.advisorycouncil.org)

**FEBRUARY 13, 2004**

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL Meeting**

**Present** Martha Becker, Joanne Brekke, Gabe Cohen, Thelma Coney, John Holecek, Timmie Faghin, Larry Low, Helen Spencer, Alexandra Tu, Suzanne Wiley, Lisa Yeager  
**Excused** Cleo Corcoran, and Larry Verhei  
**Absent** Steve Colwell  
**Guests** John Barnett, Nancy Hagen, Thelma Pegues, Will Parry, Tom Ramussen, Marta Vega, Zachary Snipe  
**ADS Staff** Pam Piering, Rosemary Cunningham, Karen Winston, Margaret Casey, and Yolanda Sanchez  
**United Way Staff** Linda Woodall

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Timmie Faghin**, Chair, convened the Advisory Council meeting at 12:00 p.m. She asked everyone in attendance to introduce them selves. She reviewed the order of the agenda and asked for any modifications and/or additions. The agenda was moved forth as presented. Timmie indicated that the meeting would take the form of a working session and there would be no formal presentations at the meeting. It was discussed that the Council generally engages in a working session at least once per year.

### ▪ **Approval of Minutes**

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that the December 13, 2003 minutes be approved as presented

### ▪ **Old Business**

**Retreat Evaluations** – Timmie informed the Council that the Executive Committee was responding to the suggestions received in the retreat evaluations. She asked that members review the evaluations and comment as appropriate. Comments reflected satisfaction and approval of how the retreat was organized. Alexandra Tu recommended that in the future a system be developed to assist new members with understanding the process. Timmie indicated that this is an area that the Council will work on as they develop a mentoring system for new appointees.

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In association with the Area Agency on Aging for Seattle-King County and sponsored by:



City of Seattle



King County

**Appointment of 2005 Retreat Committee** – Timmie informed the Council that volunteers to plan the 2005 retreat committee were being sought. Larry Low, Larry Verhei, and Helen Spencer volunteered to serve on the committee.

**By-Laws Approval** – Joanne Brekke reported on the status of revisions to the by-laws. The issue of language in the by-laws was discussed and the Council was informed that if any changes were made to the current language proposed, the items could not be voted on rather would have to undergo review and be voted at the next meeting. The Council agreed not to focus on semantics. The changes were reviewed and discussed in detail. Joanne moved to pass the by-laws and it was seconded by Gabe Cohen. Discussion ensued regarding a change to 10 meetings from 12. It was clarified that the language stipulated that there would be at least 10 meetings.

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that the by-laws be accepted and approved.

**New Proposed By-Law Revisions** – It was presented that at the retreat there was agreement to discuss further by-law changes, namely attendance and quorums. The proposed language was presented and opened for discussion. It was proposed that after 3 consecutive unexcused absences it will be assumed that the member will have resigned. This will then be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Elected officials are exempt. There was a request for clarification of the term “elected” and the use of the word “designee”. **It was agreed that it would be sent out in writing for review.** The language dealing with quorum was discussed. It was suggested that a quorum consist of 50% of appointed council members. There was a question as to whether there was a need to address quorum. The Council agreed to address attendance and forego language on quorums. Joanne Brekke, John Holecek, and Suzanne Wiley will meet to formulate an attendance policy.

**Nomination Committee** – The Council addressed the need for a Nomination Committee and the names of individuals were forwarded for consideration. The following were placed on the slate:

**United Way**

Suzanne Wiley  
Thelma Pegues

**King County**

John Holecek  
Gabe Cohen  
Helen Spencer

**City of Seattle**

Cleo Corcoron  
Tom Rasmussen

Because the question was raised whether an individual had to have been processed through the entire council confirmation prior to being elected to committees, **it was agreed that the nominations and voting would be tabled until the March 2004 meeting.**

▪ **New Business**

**Discussion/Approval of 2004 Meeting Topics** – The Health Fair was moved to the Activity list. Alexandra Tu highlighted the need to focus on Native American Elder Issues. Helen Spencer addressed concern about segmenting groups and the Council engaged in discussion regarding inclusion and cultural competency. Cultural competency and diversity was added to the proposed topic list. The need to address mental health issues separately from other issues was discussed. It was urged that the topic be divided with difference between maintaining mental health and addressing mental illness. It was also suggested that the topic on addiction be added to the list. Council members voted on the topics. **Results will be presented at March 2004 meeting.**

**Site Visits:** Proposed site visits will be arranged by staff and added to the monthly/annual calendar.

**Activity sign up sheets:** Each Council member was asked to sign up for at least three activities and to hand in their selection form at the end of the meeting. Results will be announced at the next Council meeting.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

Report from the City Council Human and Health Services Committee: Tom Rasmussen reported that he is working to ensure case management funding.

He plans to conduct a forum to discuss purchasing prescription drugs from Canada on March 15 from 11:00 – 1:00.

He is introducing legislation that would excuse builders from property taxes for 10 years if they commit 30% of their housing to low income families.

Other issues on which he is working are universal design for housing construction, insurance parity, the farmer's market, and adult day health eligibility criteria.

**State Council on Aging:**

Joanne Brekke reported the State Council met on January 27th. There was a presentation on the mental health system plus information on programs that are chronically under funded. Individual AAA's shared information.

**Planning and Allocation:** Thelma Coney reported that the first meeting of her committee was an orientation. The purpose of the committee is to develop recommendations for agencies that receive discretionary money.

**Outreach and Advocacy:** Gabe Cohen reported that the first meeting discussed monitoring legislative bills. The committee will present a list of bills to watch and strategies to follow. Also the committee will identify a list of key issues to ask legislative candidates at a forum which will be planned for September.

The committee decided that on alternate years when there is not a legislative forum, the Advisory Council could hold an annual meeting, an Advisory Council showcase to inform the public of actions of the Council.

Gabe read a letter written by Larry Verhei which protests the cancellation of closed captioning on some 200 television shows because it denies the hard of hearing of access to public information, and urges the Department of Education to re-instate the captioning. Larry Verhei move and Larry Low seconded the motion. It was also suggested that individuals send letters to the editors of their newspapers urging the re-instatement of closed captioning. The next meeting of the Outreach and Advocacy Committee will be a joint one with the Health Care Task Force on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am.

**Action Taken:** It was moved/seconded and passed that staff will edit the Larry Verhei letter; present it to Gabe Cohen for his signature and sending it to Department of Education.

**Health Care Force:** Yolanda reported for Larry Verhei, Chair. There was a short meeting of the committee. More members are needed. Council members were asked to consider joining the committee.

**Director's Report:** Pam Piering reported on W4A Day in Olympia and stated that over 100 people attended. They delivered a focused message to their representatives to ensure funding for case management.

**Other Business:** Council members were urged to suggest topics for the Tom Kelly radio show which can be heard every Sunday from 12:00 to 1:00 on radio station 1210 AM. Suggested topics can be forwarded to: Tom Kelly at [news@tomkelly.com](mailto:news@tomkelly.com) or via mail to: Tom Kelly, PO Box 4719, Rolling Bay, WA 98061. His website is <http://www.tomkelly.com/default.htm> .

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.**

#### **NEXT MEETING**

*Day/Date: Friday, March 12, 2003*

*Time: 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.*

*Place: 13th Floor Conference Room*

*Alaska Building, 618 Second Ave*

*Seattle, WA 98104*

Larry Low, *Secretary* \_\_\_\_\_ *Approved, 3/5/04*

